GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3343
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2016
Flouride in Water
Kher Smt. Kirron

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

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(a) whether many districts are heavily affected with extreme fluoride in water causing fluorosis, if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise including Telangana and Chandigarh;

(b) the number of persons affected by fluorosis, including the children suffer from dental, skeletal and non-skeletal fluorosis in the country, State/UT-wise;

(c) whether the Government implements a National Programme for Prevention and Control of Fluorosis;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated/released/utilised during the last three years, State/UT-wise; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to save the people from contaminated drinking water and from such diseases?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)
(a): Several districts in the country have Fluoride in excess of the permissible limit in drinking water, leading to condition known as Fluorosis (Dental, Skeletal and Non-Skeletal Fluorosis). As per Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation as on date, there are about 13,907 habitations in various States with high Fluoride content in the drinking water. About 114.6 lakh persons living in these areas are at risk of Fluorosis. The details of such habitations and persons living in these areas, State/UT-wise including Telangana and Chandigarh are at Annexure-I.

(b): As per school and community surveys conducted by the States under National Programme for Prevention and Control of Fluorosis (NPPCF), approximately 2.46 lakh persons including the children are suspected to be affected by Fluorosis. State-wise details are at Annexure-II.

(c) & (d) Yes. The Government of India initiated the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Fluorosis (NPPCF) in 2008-09 with an aim to prevent and control fluorosis in the country. At present, the programme is under implementation in 116 districts of 19 States.

The important components of the programme are surveillance of fluorosis in the community, capacity building in the form of training and manpower support, establishment of diagnostic facilities, health education and management of fluorosis cases including treatment, surgery, rehabilitation. Statement showing funds released/utilized from 2008-09 onwards, State-wise, under the programme is at Annexure-III.

(e): Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation has informed all the States to commission surface water based piped water supply schemes in all water quality affected habitations as a long term sustainable solution. However, since these projects may take a long gestation period(say 3-5 years) and the people cannot be put to risk of consuming contaminated water, all States have been advised to install community water purification plants, especially in arsenic and fluoride affected habitations, as a short term immediate measure for providing 8-10 lpcd(litre per capita per day) of safe water for drinking and cooking purpose only. Niti Ayog has also provided funds to the tune of Rs.800.00 Crores during financial year 2015-16 for commissioning community water purification plants in all remaining arsenic and fluoride affected habitation as short terms immediate measures.

Efforts are also made to spread awareness regarding problems due to water contamination such as Fluoride through mass media as well as local media in affected areas.